

Important Facts

The WPA provided funding and support to Rowan Public Library. From 1937-1943, the librarian for the newly opened Negro branch of Rowan Public Library was funded by WPA monies. The WPA also funded two assistants to the main library, and a book-mending workshop in 1936-1937. The workshop was hosted in Salisbury for Rowan, Iredell, Alexander, Davie and Yadkin county libraries and schools. This program was supervised primarily by Dorothy Kizziah under Julia G. Eagan. Thirty-four women mended and cleaned 21,067 books for circulation. The women who attended these workshops made money that helped them feed their children during this difficult time. For a three month period in 1940, the WPA also furnished a bookmobile, staff and 3,000 books to serve the rural areas of Rowan County through the Rowan Public Library.

Notable Stories

John Hart, author and local resident of Rowan, wrote his first novel, "King of Lies", published in 2006, at the library.

Jo White Linn, noted genealogist and author, did much of her research in the Edith M. Clark History Room and at her death in 2006 donated her research files and her many genealogical books to the History Room.

The library is built on land that has had a long and interesting history. Colonel Adlai Osborne, an early Clerk of Rowan Court bought the land in 1773, dug a well on the property which still exists and kept records from the court. He later sold the land to his good friend Judge Spruce McKay, who maintained his law office on this land. There he taught such notable attorneys as William R. Davie and Andrew Jackson. He sold this land to his brother-in-law Archibald Henderson who found the law office too small for his needs and built a larger one on the corner of Church and Fisher where it stands today on the library property. The Henderson Law office housed the first public library of Rowan